

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 13-40 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Robinson for the indication that Claims 1 and 2 are free from the art of record and allowable. Applicants have attended to the noted formal matters with respect to Claim 2 and have canceled non-elected Claims 3-12. In addition, Applicants have added new Claims 13-40, which more specifically define the claimed and allowed alkaline protease. These claims are dependent from Claims 1 and 2. As such, these claims should be entered and allowed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 50,552

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)